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jc376 U.S. PTO

# FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

225 Franklin Street  
Boston, Massachusetts  
02110-2804

Telephone  
617 542-5070

Facsimile  
617 542-8906

Web Site  
www.fr.com

Frederick P. Fish  
1855-1930

W.K. Richardson  
1859-1951

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## Box Patent Application

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Presented for filing is a new original patent application of:

Applicant: JEFF YOUNG AND JOEL A. NAVA  
Title: METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING A DOCUMENT TYPE  
DEFINITION FROM A SET OF STRUCTURED  
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

Enclosed are the following papers, including all those required to receive a filing date under 37 CFR §1.53(b):

	<u>Pages</u>
Specification	18
Claims	8
Abstract	1
Declaration	2
Drawing(s)	9

Enclosures:

- Postcard.
- Assignments (2) ; Assignment Recordation cover sheet.

Basic filing fee

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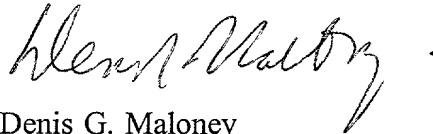
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Please send all correspondence to:

Roger S. Borovoy  
Fish & Richardson P.C.  
2200 Sand Hill Road, Suite 100  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Respectfully submitted,



Denis G. Maloney  
Reg. No. 29,670

Enclosures

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METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING A DOCUMENT TYPE DEFINITION  
FROM A SET OF STRUCTURED ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates generally to electronic document processing.

10 Numerous publishing systems have been developed to assist in the production of structured electronic documents. These publishing systems contain document authoring tools such as text editors which allow a publisher to add descriptive markup to an electronic document. The descriptive markup assigns meaning to various regions of an electronic document. For instance, some paragraphs may be marked as body paragraphs, while others are marked as headings. The structure of such electronic documents may or may not be hierarchical. For example, various marked regions may contain other regions, such as a section containing several sub-sections, each of which contain a heading and one or more paragraphs. These marked regions are referred to as elements, each of which has a particular type (e.g., paragraph). Because descriptive markup defines a document's structure as  
15 including a set of element types which, when taken together, typically form a tree or similar hierarchical object, the tree of element types is often referred to as the document's "structure".

20 An example of a descriptive markup language for electronic documents is specified by the ISO Standard 8879: "Standard Generalized Markup Language", or, "SGML". SGML is a  
25 markup language that uses tags to prepare structured documents.

In a document prepared in accordance with SGML, an element has a begin tag and its content, and an end tag, when necessary. For example, a document may use the embedded begin and end tags  
5 <para> and </para>, respectively, where "para" is the tag name corresponding to a paragraph element, to delimit paragraphs. The content may include text and other elements.

A structured document can be associated with a rule-base which defines the legal structures that the document can  
10 have. Such a rule-base is called a document type definition (DTD). For each element type, the DTD provides a general rule which governs the content of elements of the rule type. Also provided is an attribute definition rule which specifies an attribute name, type and optional default value for a given element. Thus, the DTD describes the characteristics and properties associated with each element type, and which sub-elements are valid within any given element.

A general rule can be unrestrictive. That is, there are no restrictions on what elements of the rule type can  
20 contain. An unrestricted general rule can be written as "ANY". A general rule can also be restrictive, specifying order and occurrence within the content of an element type. The restrictive general rule is stated in an expression language for specifying allowed patterns of sub-structures. Using the  
25 expression language, a restrictive general rule can be written as an expression with grouping operators (parenthesis), joining operators (commas for an ordered sequence and or-bars for an unordered sequence), and occurrence operators (a question mark for zero or one, an asterisk for zero or more, and a plus sign  
30 for one or more). For instance, the restrictive general rule

"head, para+" requires that the content be a head element followed by one or more para elements. As another example, "(para | figure)\*" is interpreted to allow any number of paragraphs and/or figures in any order.

## SUMMARY

In one aspect of the invention, a method of generating a document type definition (DTD) for a collection of source documents includes identifying patterns common to each source document in the collection of source documents and constructing for an element type in the collection of source documents a restrictive general rule based on the identified common pattern. The common patterns are identified by identifying common element sub-structures and attributes, i.e., attribute names and types as well as attribute values to be applied to the common attributes. The construction of the restricted general rule includes constructing a content model that specifies the sequence order and number of occurrences of sub-elements within the common pattern. It further includes constructing attribute definitions and value rules for each identified common attribute name and type.

In another aspect of the invention, the method identifies those patterns found to achieve a predetermined threshold of commonness (so-called "threshold patterns") and constructs for element types in the collection of source documents a restrictive general rule based on the identified threshold patterns.

In yet another aspect of the invention, a method of converting a format of a first source document to a format of a similarly structured second source document comprises identifying patterns common to the first and second source documents and mapping elements and sub-elements in the common pattern of the first source document to equivalent elements and sub-elements in the common pattern in the second source document. The method replaces tag names for each of the elements and sub-elements in the first source document with the tag names of the equivalent elements and sub-elements in the second source document.

The definition generation technique provides a single document type definition against which an entire set of same-structured source documents may be validated. Moreover, users producing new documents to be added to the set may use the DTD to ensure that mandatory sub-elements and attribute specifications are always provided. Thus, any newly produced documents are automatically valid.

The mapping process allows documents that are authored in one format, e.g., word processing or publishing format, to be converted to a second format automatically, i.e., without user intervention. Such an automated DTD mapping process is most beneficial when document format conversions involve a significant amount of document processing effort. For example, a publisher may find it desirable to convert documents from an "in-house" DTD (such as XML) to HTML for Web delivery or re-engineer its internal documentation around a different DTD.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The above features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. 1A is a flow diagram of a document type definition (DTD) building process.

FIG. 1B is a flow diagram of the common pattern identification process (of FIG. 1A) as it pertains to attributes-based patterns

FIG. 1C is a flow diagram of the restrictive general rule construction process of the DTD building process of FIG. 1A.

FIGS. 2-4 are hierarchical representations of two source documents for which a DTD is constructed in accordance with the DTD building process of FIG. 1A.

FIG. 5 is a flow diagram of a DTD mapping process.

FIG. 6 is a hierarchical representation of a source document to be processed by the DTD mapping process of FIG. 5.

FIG. 7 is a post-processing, hierarchical representation of the source document depicted in FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a block diagram of a computer system for supporting a electronic document publishing system including the DTD building process and DTD mapping process, as shown in FIG. 1A and FIG. 5, respectively.

## DESCRIPTION

Referring to FIG. 1A, a document type definition (DTD) building process 10 is shown. The process receives 12 as input one or more source documents. Each source document uses identical tag names for the same purpose (e.g., both use "para" to define certain text as a "paragraph"). Such source documents are understood and processed as tree-like structures, with each element type represented as a tree node. If trees corresponding to the source documents are not defined in the source documents themselves or stored in a separate file, the DTD building process will parse 14 the source documents to build tree structures for each of the source documents. The DTD building process scans 16 the tree structures of the source documents to identify common patterns.

In the embodiment described herein, a pattern is a sub-structure, such as a particular occurrence of an element and one or more of its sub-elements. Preferably, patterns may capture particular element attribute information, i.e., names, types and restricted values, as well.

To perform the task of identifying common patterns, the process 10 invokes a matching process, which may be implemented as any one of a number of known pattern matching algorithms. For details of such pattern matching algorithms, reference may be had to a book by Donald E. Knuth, entitled "The Art of Computer Programming," (Reading, Mass; Addison-Wesley, 1973), as well as other sources. Having identified the common patterns, the DTD building process 10 constructs 18 a restrictive general rule for



each element type based on the identified common patterns.

Referring to FIG. 1B, one aspect of identifying common patterns 16, that is, identifying common patterns which are based on attribute names, types and restricted values, is shown. The process determines 20 the number of occurrences of each attribute name on an element type and examines 22 the attribute values for each occurrence of each attribute name on the same element type to determine the attribute type. Additionally, the process may determine if the attribute occurs globally in a document or only on individual named element types. It determines 24 if the attribute name occurs in association with the same attribute value on more than one element type. To make such a determination, it will look at whether an attribute/value pair occurs on more than one element type. It can establish a standard deviation and test each source document in the collection against the standard deviation. For a given attribute type (as previously determined), the process examines 26 attribute values for each occurrence of the attribute type in all of the source documents and establishes 28 an enumeration or a restricted range appropriate to the attribute type.

Referring now to FIG. 1C, constructing 18 a restrictive general rule includes constructing 32 a content model to specify any sequence order/occurrence constraints associated with sub-elements occurring within the pattern (i.e., the common sub-elements), as well as constructing 34 attribute definitions and value rules for common attributes. The attribute definitions specify the association between attribute names and elements. The value rules specify the values that may be applied to

particular named attributes. A specified value may be an enumeration, a set, a range or boolean expression.

It is preferable to modify the above-described process 10 to take into account those patterns that are shared by only some portion of the source documents. Such patterns are those that have achieved some predetermined threshold level of commonness, hereinafter referred to as "threshold patterns". The process 10 so modified would identify threshold patterns in addition to common patterns (at 16) and construct the restrictive general rules 18 to include the identified threshold patterns. Patterns which are below the predetermined threshold would not be included in the constructed rule. Suppose that a threshold is set at 10%. Consider then, for example, two documents having a total of 8 section elements between them. Each section element contains one or more paragraph elements. If there is one section element that does not begin with a head element, then the pattern is at 12.5% (above the threshold) and the DTD building process constructs for the section element type the restrictive general rule "head?, para+". In contrast, a pattern in which a section element immediately begins with a head element occurring in all but one out of fifteen section elements is at 6.6%, well below the threshold. Consequently, the DTD building process ignores the pattern and generates the rule "head, para+" for the section element type.

Optionally, the identification of common sub-structures may involve the application of a standard deviation test to determine "commonness" of patterns within a given source document. Given a statistically significant sample, any pattern

which falls outside of the standard deviation from the mean can be either discarded or re-coded with local restrictive general rules to override the restrictive general rules of the DTD.

5 Additionally, heuristic methods may be used to detect certain patterns as being erroneously generated or ill-formed, and therefore capable of being discarded.

The restrictive general rules, once constructed, are available for encoding in a document type definition template or  
10 file by a user of a system such as an electronic document publishing system.

It is important to consider that many electronic documents are provided with one or more style sheets specifying format characteristics for their display. A style sheet includes format characteristics for each type of element in a document. The format characteristics may include font styles and size, margins and other details relating to the appearance and behavior of a document. Because style sheets are often stored separate from their corresponding documents, it may be necessary or  
20 desirable to construct a style definition for a collection of such documents. Although the process 10 has been described above with reference to document type definitions, it is not so limited. It should be understood that the process 10 is a definition building process that is equally applicable to  
25 constructing style definitions for a set of style sheets.

FIGS. 2-4 depict logical, hierarchical representations of two exemplary source documents that are received as input by the DTD building process 10. In FIGS. 2-4, like reference numerals are used in association with like elements and sub-

elements.

Referring first to FIG. 2, a first source document 50 and a second source document 52 are shown. The structure of first source document 50 includes a root document element 54a. The root document element 54a contains two section elements 56a and 56b, followed by an index element 58. The section element 56a contains a head element 60a, followed by para elements 62a and 62b, figure element 64a, and para elements 62c and 62d. The section element 56b contains a head element 60b, followed by para elements 62e and 62f.

The structure of the second source document 52 includes a root document element 54b. The root document element includes three sections elements, section elements 56c, 56d and 56e, respectively. The section element 56c includes a head element 60c, followed by three para elements 62g, 62h and 62i, respectively. The section element 56d includes a head element 60d, followed by a para element 62j and a figure element 64b. The third section element 56e includes a head element 60e followed by a para element 62k.

Referring to FIG. 3, the hierarchical representations of the source documents 50 and 52 (from FIG. 2) are shown with first level sub-structures 66a, 66b identified as being common to both documents 50 and 52 highlighted by bolded lines. In the common (first level) sub-structure 66a of document 50, the document element 54a includes the section elements 56a and 56b. In the common (first level) sub-structure of document 52, the document element 54b includes sections 56c, 56d and 56e. The occurrence of index element 58 following sections (sections 56a

and 56b) is not common.

The DTD building process 10 (FIG. 1A) constructs the restrictive general rule "section+, index?" for the document element 54 (i.e., 54a and 54b, collectively) based on the identified pattern. This restrictive general rule thus defines the document element 54 as containing one or more section elements followed by zero or one index element. Had there been a third source document which contained no sections within its document element, the process would have constructed the rule "section\*, index?". The expression "section\*, index?" is interpreted as zero or more section elements, followed by zero or one index element. Similarly, had a fourth document contained an index followed by a section, the rule would be constructed as "(section | index)\*", thus requiring any number of section and/or index elements occurring in any order.

Referring now to FIG. 4, in addition to the first level sub-structures 66a and 66b, second level sub-substructures 68a, 68b are shown highlighted by bolded lines. Each section element (the section elements 56a through 56e) contains as sub-elements a head element, followed by a varied number of para elements. Additionally, the section elements 56a and 56d have figure elements 64a and 64b, respectively.

The DTD building process 10 (FIG. 1A) constructs for the section element type 56 (section elements 56a through 56e, collectively) the restrictive general rule "head, (para | figure)+". That is, a head element is followed by one or more para and/or figure elements. Alternatively, a tighter rule may be constructed. For example, the DTD building process could

construct the restrictive general rule "head, para, (figure | para)\*", which disallows a head followed by a figure.

After processing all common patterns shown in the representations of FIGS. 3 and 4, the DTD building process 10 will have constructed the following set of restrictive general rules for the source documents 50 and 52:

```
doc = section+, index?
section = head, (para | figure)+
index = <TEXT>
head = <TEXT>
para = <TEXT>
figure = <TEXT>
```

These rules can be included in an available document type definition template or file.

Referring now to FIG. 5, a DTD mapping process (or mapping process) 70 is shown. The DTD mapping process 70 is used to convert one or more "orphan" documents to the same format as another document or set of documents. For example, a publisher may wish to integrate into a set of electronic technical manuals a document that was produced electronically by another publisher in a different format. In yet another example, some documents in a set of documents may have been updated in a different format from that of the original set and it may be desirable to unify the entire set under the new format. In these typical scenarios, the process would convert the DTD of the "orphan" document (or documents) to a target DTD, that is, the DTD associated with second document or set of documents having the format to which the document set publisher wishes to conform the orphan document

or documents. Simply stated, the goal is to make a first document or set of documents look like a second document or set of documents.

5           The DTD mapping process 70 examines 72 the document type definitions of a first and a second source document to identify common patterns. As mentioned earlier (with respect to the DTD building process 10), patterns may include elements, sub-elements and corresponding attributes (or more particularly, attribute types, names and values). The DTD mapping process 70 maps 74 equivalencies between elements and sub-elements in the common pattern of the first source document and elements and sub-elements in the common pattern in the second source document. Once the DTD mapping process 70 has mapped elements and sub-elements of the first source document with elements and sub-elements of the second source document, the DTD mapping process 70 changes 76 the tag names of each element and sub-element in the first source document to the equivalent element and sub-element of the second source document.

20           If the source DTD, i.e., the DTD for a collection of documents to be recoded via the target DTD, does not exist, the DTD mapping process 70 needs to construct it. The source DTD can be constructed according to the DTD building process 10 of FIG. 1A.

25           It should be noted that the common pattern identification procedure 70 (FIG. 5) involves pattern and/or heuristics matching techniques and may be bounded by the user according to user-specified criteria.

Referring to FIG. 6, a hierarchical representation of a

exemplary structured source document 80 to be recoded (or "retagged") according to a target DTD, in this case, the DTD constructed for the source documents 50, 52 depicted in the representations of FIGS. 2-4, is shown. The structure of the source document 80 shown in FIG. 6 will now be described. A "pub" element 82 contains two "chapter" elements 84a and 84b. The "chapter" element 84a includes a heading element 86a following by two "body" elements 88a-b. The body elements 88a-b are followed by a graphic element 90, which is in turn followed by another body element 88c. The chapter element 84b includes a heading element 86b and two body elements 88d and 88e.

The source document 80 may be associated with the following document type definition:

```
pub = chapter+
chapter = heading, (body | graphic)+
heading = <TEXT>
body = <TEXT>
graphic = <TEXT>
```

Recall that the document type definition constructed for the structured documents 50 and 52 (from FIGS. 2-4) is as follows:

```
doc = section+, index?
section = head, (para | figure)+
index = <TEXT>
head = <TEXT>
para = <TEXT>
figure = <TEXT>
```

The DTD mapping process 70 (FIG. 5) examines, e.g., compares, 72 the two document type definitions, that is, the DTDs



for the source document 80 and the DTD corresponding to the  
source documents 50 and 52, looking for common patterns. The DTD  
mapping process determines that the general rules for "section"  
and "chapter" have the same pattern, and that doc and pub have  
similar patterns. Alternatively, and as discussed above in  
reference to FIG. 5, the DTD mapping process might also use  
heuristics to find common sub-structures. For instance, element  
types with the same stem (e.g., "head" and "heading") might be  
equated.

The DTD mapping process 70 identifies 72 common  
patterns and maps 74 elements and sub-elements of the DTD for  
source document 80 to equivalent elements and sub-elements of the  
DTD constructed for the source documents 50 and 52. The  
equivalent element types are as follows:

pub ~ doc  
chapter ~ section  
heading ~ head  
body ~ para  
graphic ~ figure

The DTD mapping process recodes 76 source document 80, using the  
equivalent element types from the DTD constructed for the source  
documents 50 and 52. In other words, the tag names for the  
elements in source document 80 are changed to the tag names for  
the equivalent elements of the target DTD. The resulting source  
document is depicted in FIG. 7 as a source document 90.

Referring to FIG. 7, the structure of the source  
document 90 (i.e., recoded source document 80 of FIG. 6) is now  
described. It should be noted that reference numbering

convention for FIGS. 2-4 has been adopted in FIG. 7. A doc  
element 54c contains section elements 56f-g. The doc element 54c  
and section elements 56f-g are the "retagged" versions of the pub  
5 element 82 and chapter elements 84a, 84b, respectively. The  
section element 56f includes a head element 60f (formerly,  
"heading" 86a), two paragraph elements 62l and 62m (formerly,  
"body" elements 88a, 88b, respectively), a figure element 64c  
(formerly, "graphic" element 90) and another paragraph element  
10 62n (formerly, body element 88c). The section element 56g  
includes, as sub-elements, a head element 60g, followed by  
paragraph elements 62o and 62p. Sub-elements 60g, 62o and 62p  
correspond to the sub-elements 86b, 88d and 88e, respectively, of  
the original source document 80.

Referring to FIG. 8, a computer system 100 for  
supporting the DTD building and mapping processes, as well as any  
matching or other processes invoked by these processes, is shown.  
The invention may be implemented in digital electronic circuitry  
or in computer system hardware, firmware, software, or in  
20 combinations of them. Apparatus of the invention may be  
implemented in a computer program product tangibly embodied in a  
machine-readable storage device for execution by a computer  
processor 102; and method steps of the invention may be performed  
by the computer processor 102 executing a program to perform  
25 functions of the invention by operating on input data and  
generating output.

Suitable processors include, by way of example, both  
general and special purpose microprocessors. Generally, the  
processor 102 will receive instructions and data from a read-only

memory (ROM) 104 and/or a random access memory (RAM) 106 through a CPU bus 108. A computer can generally also receive programs and data from a storage medium such as an internal disk 110 operating through a mass storage interface 112 or a removable disk 114 operating through an I/O interface 116. The flow of data over an I/O bus 118 to and from I/O devices 110, 114, 120, 122 and the processor 102 and memory 104, 106 is controlled by an I/O controller 124. User input is obtained through a keyboard 120, mouse, stylus, microphone, trackball, touch-sensitive screen, or other input device. These elements will be found in a conventional desktop computer as well as other computers suitable for executing computer programs implementing the methods described here, which may be used in conjunction with any display device 122, or other raster output device capable of producing color or gray scale pixels on paper, film, display screen, or other output medium.

Storage devices suitable for tangibly embodying computer program instructions include all forms of non-volatile memory, including by way of example semiconductor memory devices, such as EPROM, EEPROM, and flash memory devices; magnetic disks such as internal hard disks 110 and removable disks 114; magneto-optical disks; and CD-ROM disks. Any of the foregoing may be supplemented by, or incorporated in, specially-designed ASICs (application-specific integrated circuits).

Typically, the DTD building, mapping and other related proceses are components of an electronic document publishing system residing on the internal disk 110. These electronic document publishing system processes are executed by the

processor 102 in response to a user request to the computer system's operating system (not shown) after being loaded into memory. The source documents processed by these electronic document publishing system processes may be retrieved from a mass storage device such as the internal disk 110 or other local memory, such as RAM 116 or ROM 104. It is also possible that the source documents could reside on and thus be retrieved from another computer system, such as a Web server.

#### Other Embodiments

It is to be understood that while the invention has been described in conjunction with the detailed description thereof, the foregoing description is intended to illustrate and not limit the scope of the invention, which is defined by the scope of the appended claims. Other aspects, advantages, and modifications are within the scope of the following claims. For example, although the invention has been described with reference to an SGML-based implementation, it is not so limited. It should be understood that the invention is equally applicable to other languages and syntaxes that incorporate concepts like those found in SGML.

What is claimed is:

## CLAIMS

1 1. A method of generating a definition for a collection of  
2 source documents comprising:

3 identifying patterns common to each source document in  
4 the collection of source documents; and

5 constructing for an element type in the collection of  
6 source documents a restrictive general rule based on the  
7 identified common patterns.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying common  
2 patterns comprises:

3 identifying common attribute names and types.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying common  
2 patterns further comprises:

3 identifying restricted attribute values associated with  
4 the common attribute names and types.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying common  
2 attribute names and types comprises:

3 determining the number of occurrences of each attribute  
4 name on an element type;

5 examining the attribute values for each occurrence of  
6 each attribute name on the same element type to determine the  
7 attribute type; and

8 determining if the attribute name occurs in association  
9 with the same attribute value on more than one element type.

1 5. The method of claim 3, wherein identifying restricted  
2 attribute values comprises:

3 examining attribute values for each occurrence of an  
4 attribute type in all of the source documents in the collection  
5 of source documents; and

6 establishing an enumeration or a restricted range  
7 appropriate to the attribute type.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein identifying restricted  
2 attribute values further comprises:

3 applying a heuristic to identify errors in the  
4 collection of source documents; and

5 adjusting the established enumeration or restricted  
6 range for attribute values.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein constructing a  
2 restricted general rule comprises:

3 constructing a content model that specifies the  
4 sequence order and number of occurrences of sub-elements within  
5 the common pattern.

1 8. The method of claim 2, wherein constructing a  
2 restricted general rule comprises:

3 constructing attribute definitions and value rules for  
4 each identified common attribute name and type.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
 identifying those patterns found to achieve a  
 predetermined threshold of commonness; and  
 constructing a restrictive general rule for those  
 identified patterns.

10. A computer program residing on a computer-readable  
 medium for building a document type definition for a collection  
 of source documents, the computer program comprising instructions  
 causing a computer system to:

identify patterns common to each source document in the  
 collection of source documents; and

construct for an element type in the collection of  
 source documents a restrictive general rule based on the  
 identified common patterns.

11. The computer program of claim 10, wherein the  
 instructions to identify common patterns comprise instructions  
 to:

identify common attribute names and types.

12. The computer program of claim 11, wherein the  
 instructions to identify common patterns further comprise  
 instructions to:

identify restricted attribute values associated with  
 the common attribute names and types.

13.           A computer system comprising:  
              a storage device for storing a set of source documents;  
and

              a computer processor configured by a document type  
definition building program to identify patterns common to each  
source document in the set of source documents and construct for  
an element type in the set of source documents a restrictive  
general rule base on the identified common patterns.

1           14.           A method of converting a format of a first source  
2 document to a format of a similarly structured second source  
3 document, the method comprising:

4                       identifying patterns common to the first and second  
5 source documents; and

6                       using the identified common patterns to map elements  
7 and sub-elements in the first source document to equivalent  
8 elements and sub-elements in the second source document.

1           15.           The method of claim 14, further comprising:

2                       replacing tag names for each of the elements and sub-  
3 elements in the first source document with equivalent tag names  
4 of the elements and sub-elements in the second source document.

1           16.           The method of claim 14, wherein identifying patterns  
2 common to the first and second source documents comprises:

3                       examining document type definitions for the first and  
4 second source documents.



1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:  
2 producing the document type definition for the first  
3 source document if the document type definition for the first  
4 source document does not already exist.

1 18. The method of claim 14, wherein identifying patterns  
2 common to the first and second source documents comprises:  
3 performing pattern matching.

1 19. The method of claim 14, wherein identifying patterns  
2 common to the first and second source documents comprises:  
3 matching heuristics of the patterns in the first source  
4 document to heuristics of the patterns in the second source  
5 document.

1 20. The method of claim 18, wherein identifying patterns  
2 common to the first and second source documents further  
3 comprises:  
4 matching heuristics of the patterns in the first source  
5 document to heuristics of the patterns in the second source  
6 document.

7 21. The method of claim 14, wherein using uses the  
8 identified common patterns to map automatically elements and sub-  
9 elements in the first source document to equivalent elements and  
10 sub-elements in the second source document.

1 22. A method of converting the format of a source document

2 to the format of a set of source documents, the set of source  
3 documents having a structure similar to the first source  
4 document, the method comprising:  
5 identifying patterns common to the source document and  
6 the set of source documents;  
7 mapping elements and sub-elements in the common pattern  
8 of the source document to equivalent elements and sub-elements  
9 the common pattern of the set of source documents; and  
10 replacing tag names for the each of the elements and  
11 sub-elements in common pattern of the source document with the  
12 equivalent tag names of the elements and sub-elements in common  
13 pattern of the set of source documents.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein identifying patterns  
common to the source document and the set of source documents  
comprises:

examining document type definitions for the source  
document and and the set of source documents.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising:  
producing the document type definition for the source  
document if the document type definition for the source document  
does not already exist.

25. A computer program residing on a computer-readable  
medium for converting a format of a first source document to a  
format of a similarly structured second source document, the  
computer program comprising instructions causing a computer

5 system to:

6 identify patterns common to the first and second source  
7 documents; and

8 use the identified common patterns to map elements and  
9 sub-elements of the first source document to equivalent elements  
10 and sub-elements of the second source document.

11 26. The computer program of claim 25, further comprising  
12 instructions to:

13 replace tag names for the each of the elements and sub-  
14 elements in the common pattern of the first source document with  
15 equivalent tag names of the elements and sub-elements in the  
16 common pattern of the second source document.

17 27. The computer program of claim 26, wherein the  
18 instructions to identify patterns common to the source document  
19 and the set of source documents comprise instructions to:

20 examine document type definitions for the source  
21 document and and the set of source documents.

22 28. A computer system comprising:

23 a storage device for storing a source document and a  
24 set of source documents, the source document having a format  
25 different from that of the set of source documents; and

26 a computer processor configured by a mapping program to  
27 identify patterns common to the source document and the set of  
28 source documents and map elements and sub-elements in the common  
pattern of the source document to equivalent elements and sub-

9 elements the common pattern of the set of source documents.

22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of generating a definition for a collection of source documents is provided. Patterns common to each source document in the collection of source documents are identified and restrictive general rules based on the identified common patterns are then constructed for element types. The construction of a restricted general rule includes constructing a content model that specifies the sequence order and number of occurrences of sub-elements within the common pattern. It further includes constructing attribute definitions and values rules for attributes occurring in the common patterns. Also provided is a method of converting a format of a first source document to a format of a similarly structured second source document is provided. The method identifies patterns common to the first and second source documents and maps elements and sub-elements in common pattern of the first source document to equivalent elements and sub-elements in the common pattern of the second source document.

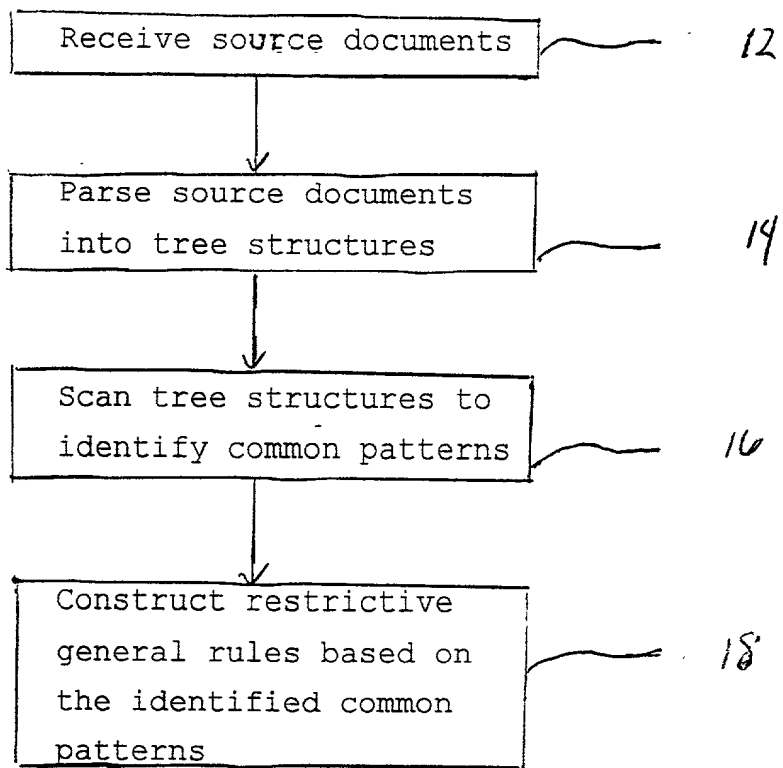


FIG. 1A

Determine the number of Occurrences of each attribute name on an element type 20

Examine the attribute values for each occurrence of each attribute name on the same element type to determine the attribute type 22

Determine if the attribute name occurs in association with the same attribute value on more than one element type 24

Examine attribute values for each occurrence of an attribute type in all of the source documents 26

Establish an enumeration or a restricted range appropriate to the attribute type 28

FIG. 1B

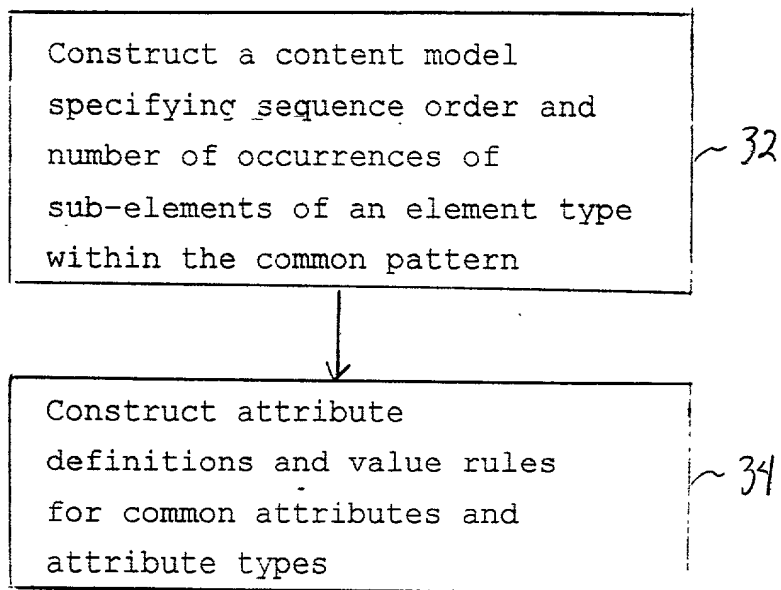


FIG. 1C



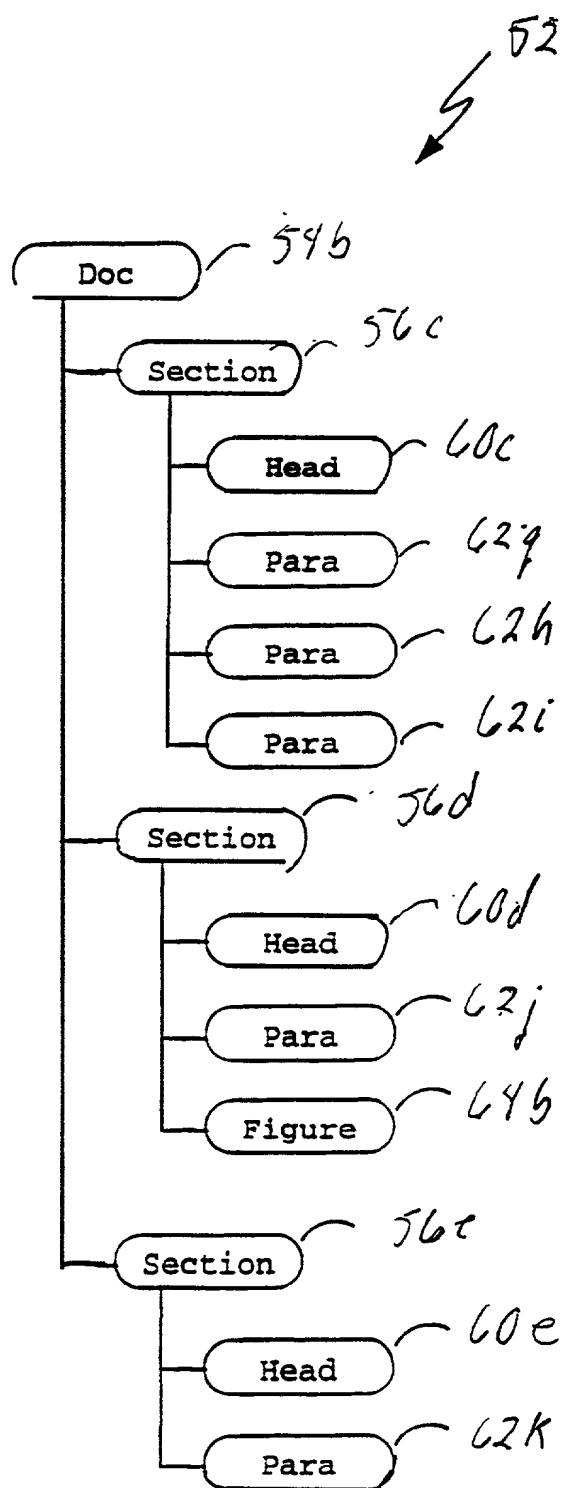
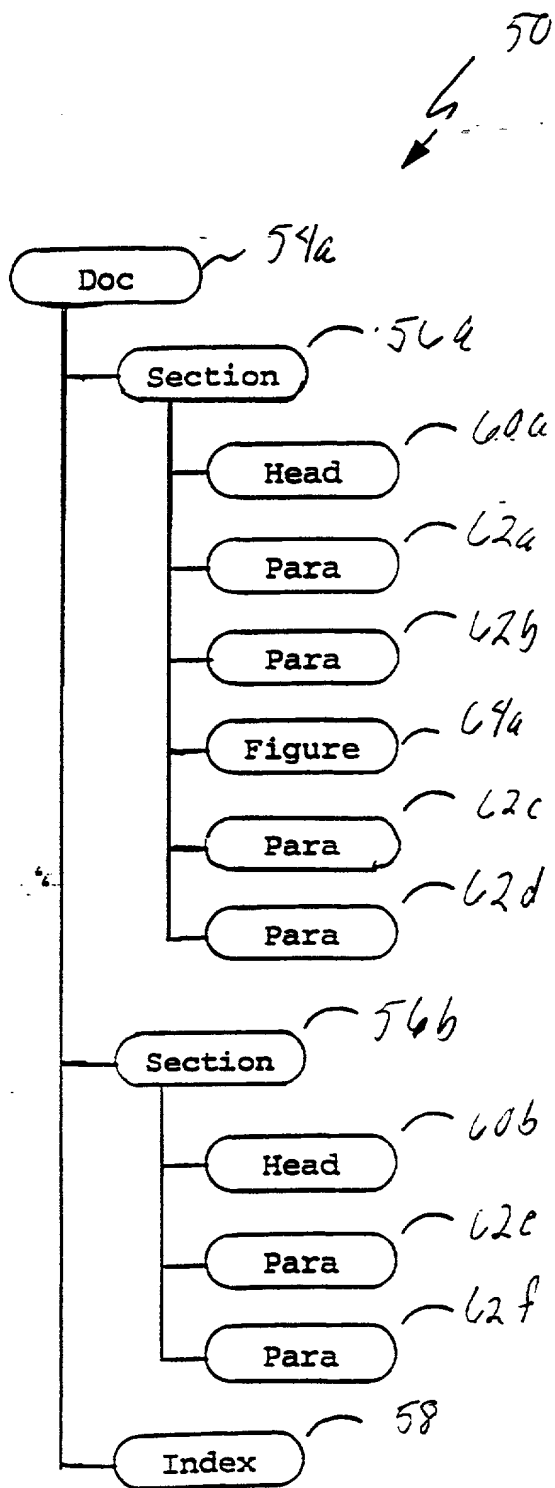


FIG. 2

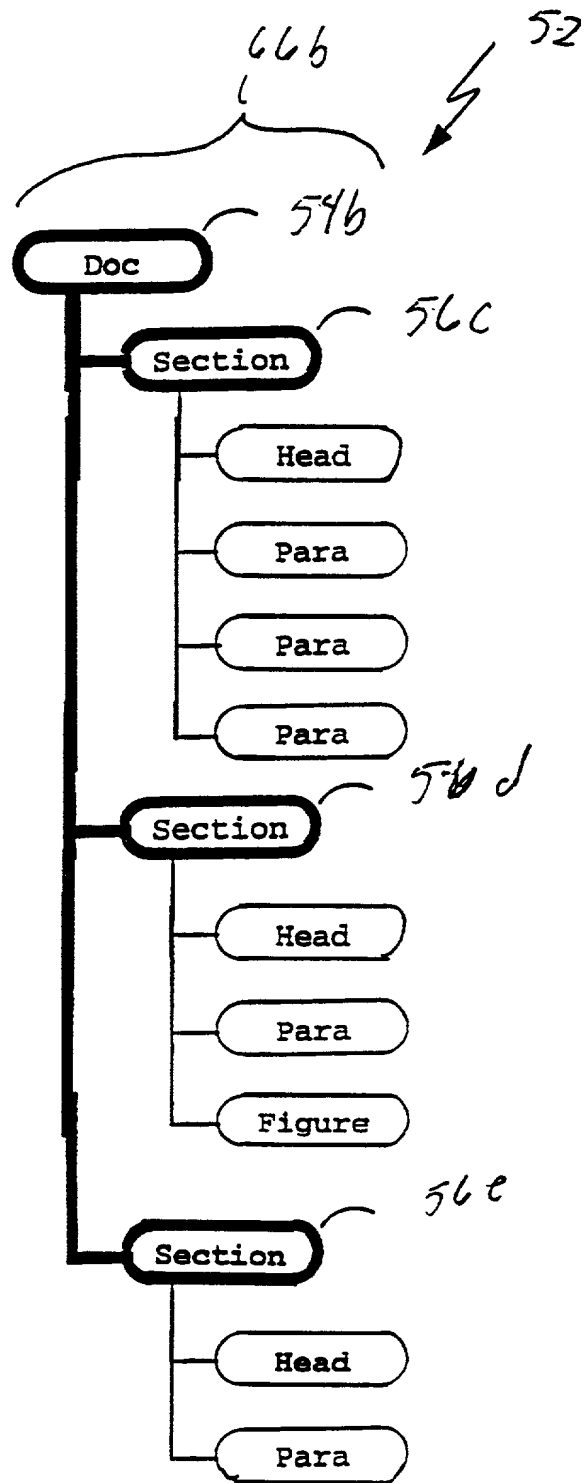
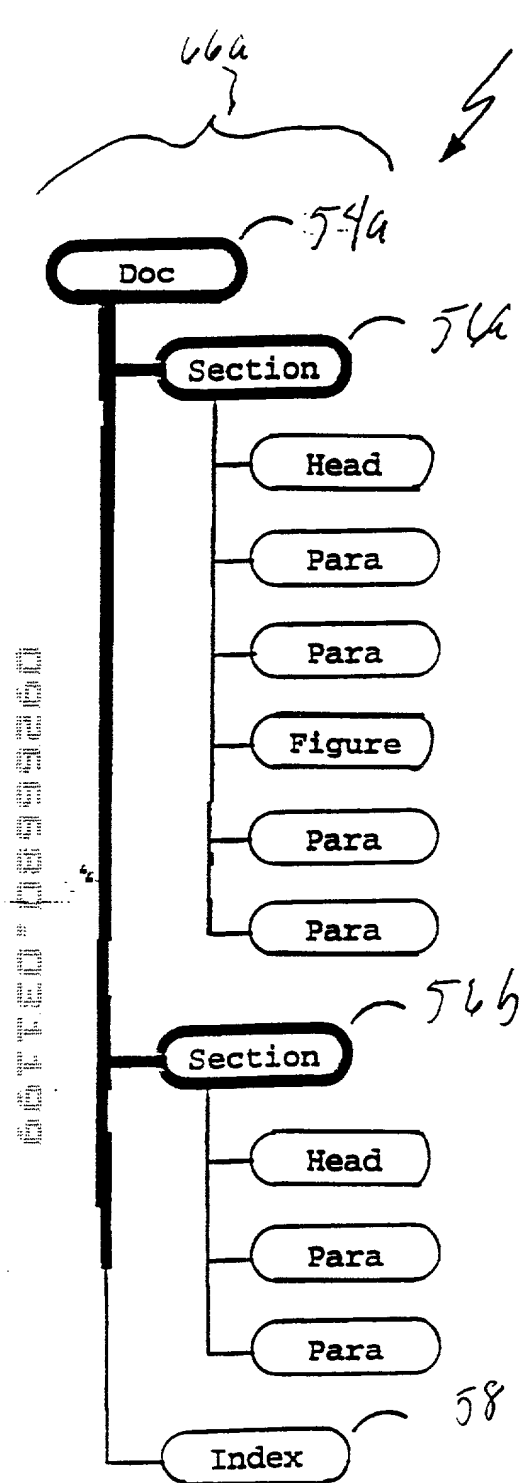


FIG. 3

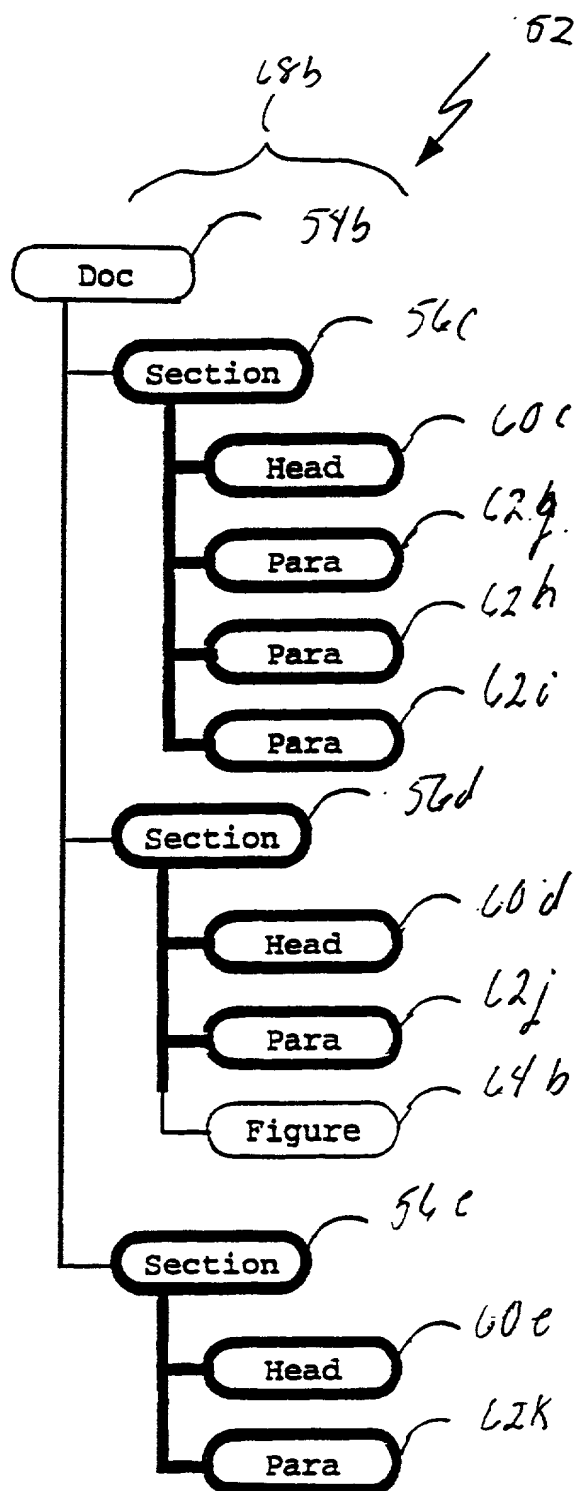
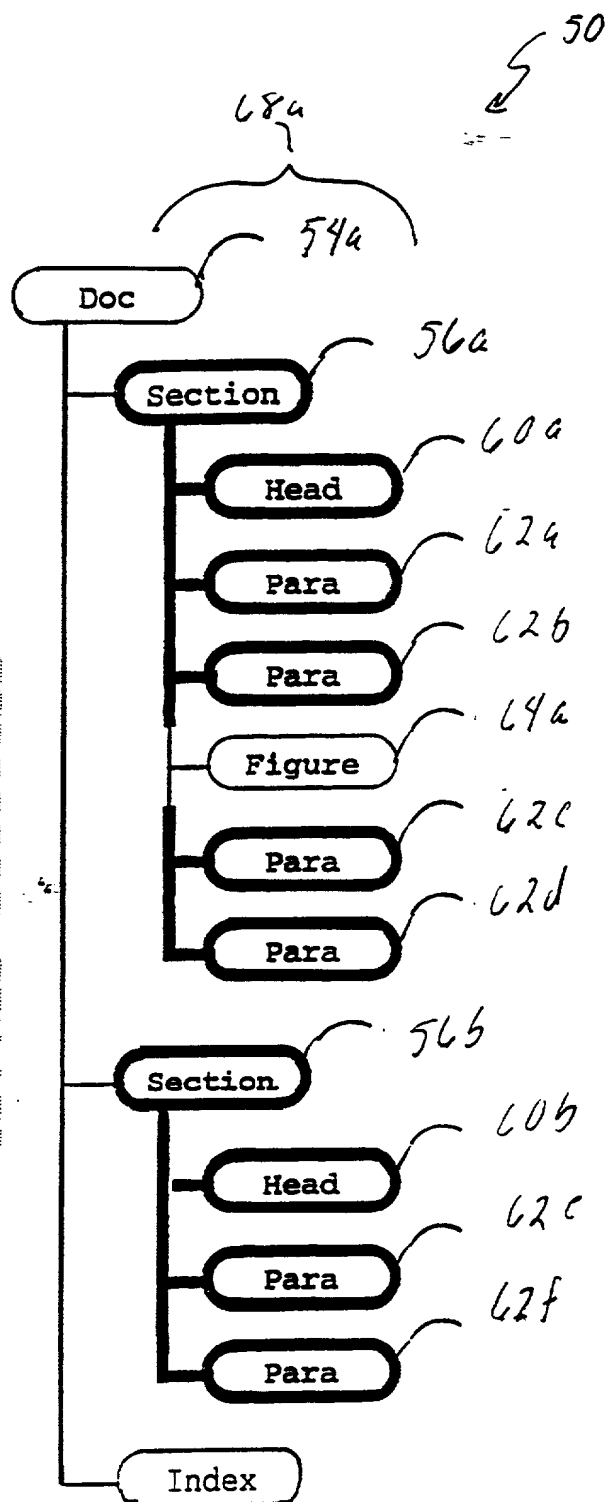


FIG. 4

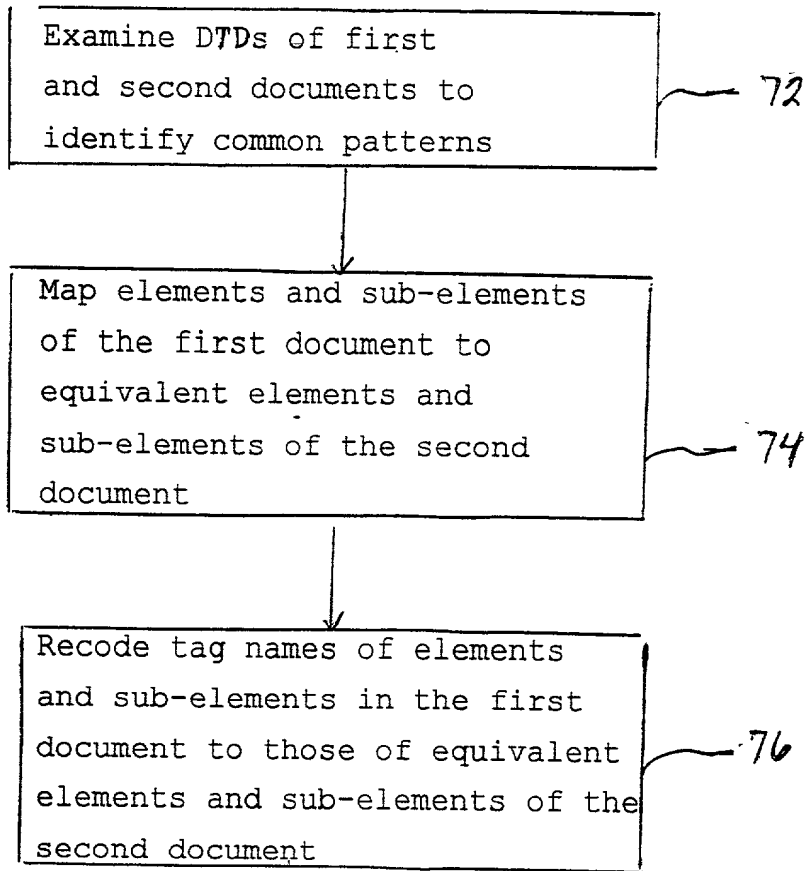


FIG. 5

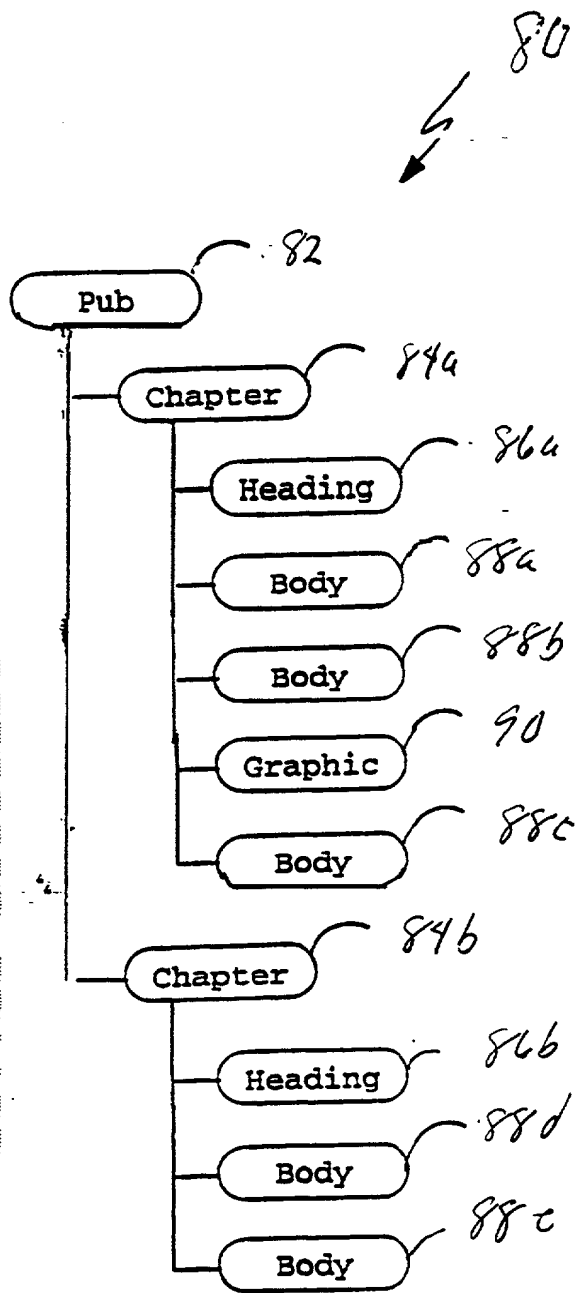


FIG. 6

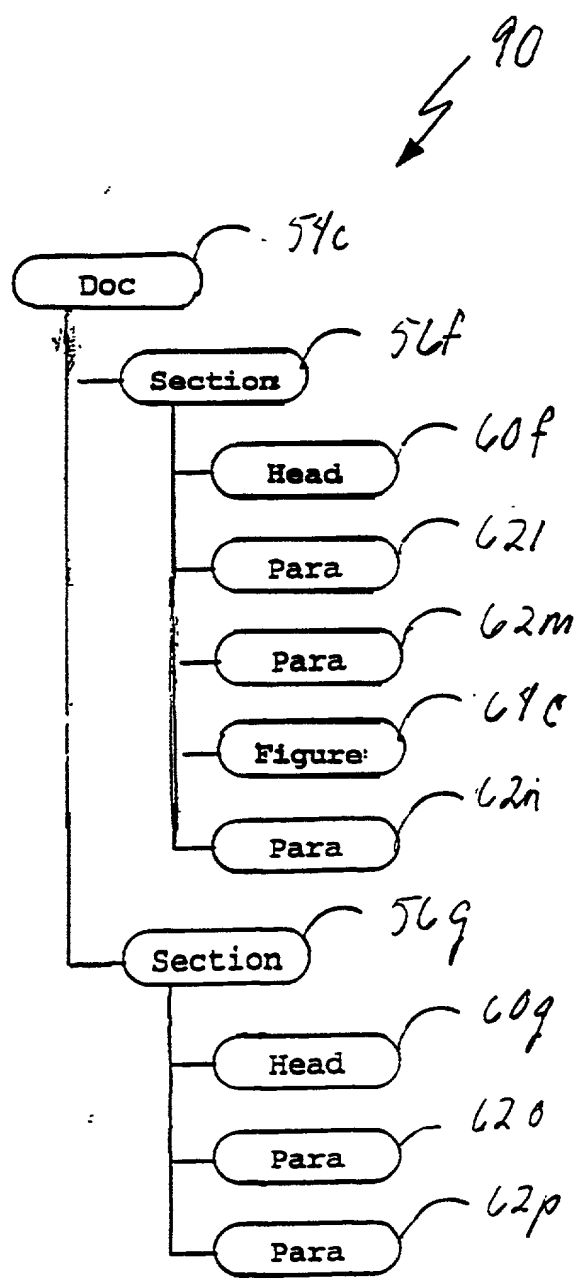
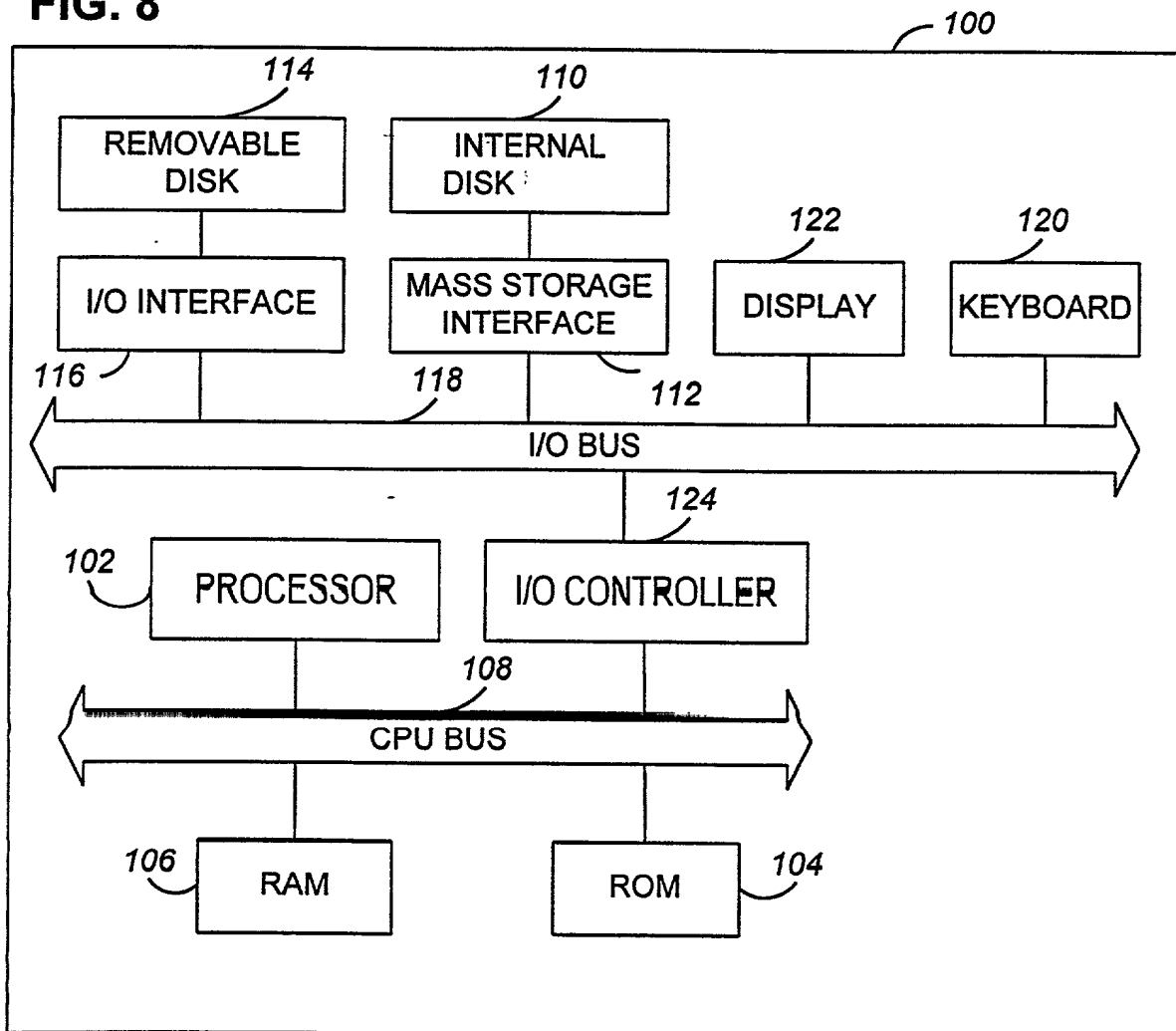


FIG. 7

FIG. 8



COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING A DOCUMENT TYPE DEFINITION FROM A SET OF STRUCTURED ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS**

the specification of which:

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ under Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ with Express Mail No. \_\_\_\_\_ (Application Number not yet known).

☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to that Customer Number:

**Customer Number 021876**

Address all telephone calls to **Denis G. Maloney** at telephone number 617/542-5070.

Address all correspondence to Roger S. Borovoy, Fish & Richardson P.C., 2200 Sand Hill Road, Suite 100, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

[X] For Assigned Inventions: I understand that the purpose of making this appointment is to permit prosecution of patent applications for the above-identified invention for the benefit of my assignee, and that this appointment does not create an attorney-client relationship between me and these appointees.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of inventor: Jeff Young

Inventor's signature

Date:

2/11/99

Residence: 948 El Rio Drive, San Jose, CA 95125  
Citizen of: USA  
Post Office Address: 948 El Rio Drive, San Jose, CA 95125

Full name of inventor: Joel A. Nava

Inventor's signature

Date:

Residence: 2883 Benjamin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124  
Citizen of: USA  
Post Office Address: 2883 Benjamin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124

COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

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**METHOD OF CONSTRUCTING A DOCUMENT TYPE DEFINITION FROM A SET OF STRUCTURED ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS**

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☒ [ x ] is attached hereto.

☐ [ ] was filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

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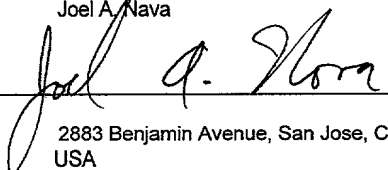
I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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Inventor's signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Citizen of: USA  
Post Office Address: 948 El Rio Drive, San Jose, CA 95125

Full name of inventor: Joel A. Nava

Inventor's signature  Date: 3/2/99

Residence: 2883 Benjamin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124  
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Post Office Address: 2883 Benjamin Avenue, San Jose, CA 95124